

Message Text

SECRET

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13-12
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-11 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /090 W

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R 070951Z FEB 76
FM US DEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1411
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0188
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
US DEL SALT TWO GENEVA 0066
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0030

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD
FEBRUARY 2-FEB 8, 1976

1. BEGIN SUMMARY:

DURING THE INITIAL INFOMAL SESSION (FEBRUARY 3)
OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTIONS
NEGOTIATIONS, EASTERN REPS CRITICIZED THE DECEMBER 16
WESTERN REDUCTION NUCLEAR OFFER AND DEFENDED THE EASTERN

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PROGRAM ALONG NOW FAMILIAR LINES. WESTERN REPS REBUTTED

THE CRITICISMS AND URGED THE EAST TO GIVE THE AUGMENTED WESTERN PROPOSAL FURTHER STUDY. CZECH REP LAHODA MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE FEBRUARY 5 PLENARY MEETING. IN MAKING BRIEF MENTION OF THE WESTERN NUCLEAR OFFER, HE DESCRIBED IT AS A FIRST THOUGH INSUFFICIENT STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. LAHODA DWELT ON THE NEED TO CONFORM TO THE AGREED GOALS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BY WORKING TOWARD AN OUTCOME PROVIDING PRECISE, EQUAL AND MUTUAL COMMITMENTS FOR ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS THE EIGHTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS MOVED INTO ITS SECOND WEEK, THE EAST CONTINUED TO GIVE CAUTIOUS TREATMENT TO THE NUCLEAR OFFER TABLED BY THE WEST LAST DECEMBER 16. AFTER AT FIRST AVOIDING MENTION OF IT, EASTERN REPS AT THE FEBRUARY 3 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE TALKS ENGAGED IN RESTRAINED CRITICISM OF THE EXPANDED WESTERN REDUCTION PROPOSAL ON THE GROUNDS THAT: (A) IT WAS TIED TO AN OVERALL WESTERN PROGRAM PREVIOUSLY FOUND UNACCEPTABLE; (B) IT DID NOT COVER THE NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS OF THE OTHER WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS; AND (C) IT DID NOT PROVIDE FOR REDUCTION COMMITMENTS BY NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS FROM THE OUTSET. EASTERN REPS DESCRIBED THE MERITS OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 1973, EASTERN PROPOSAL IN FAMILIAR TERMS AND STRESSED THAT SUBSEQUENT EASTERN FIRST STEP AND FREZZE PROPOSALS REMAINED TOPICAL. WESTERN REPS REBUTTED THE EASTERN CRITICISMS AND SAID THAT THEY INDICATED THE EAST HAD YET TO GRASP THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AUGMENTED WESTERN PROPOSAL. ALLIED REPS DECLINED A SUGGESTION BY SOVIET REP KHLESTOV TO COMMIT PARTICIPANTS TO RETURN TO THE PRACTISE OF ALTERNATING FUTURE INFORMAL SESSIONS BETWEEN THE CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS AND THE ISSUE OF FORCE DEFINITIONS, BUT DID AGREE TO DISCUSS DEFINITIONS IN THE NEXT INFORMAL SESSION.

3. CZECH REP LAHODA MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT GIVEN AT
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THE FEBRUARY 5 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION CENTERED ON THE ARGUMENT THAT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD ADHERE TO AGREED PRINCIPLES THAT ANY REDUCTIONS AGREEMENT SHOULD CONTAIN PRECISE, EQUAL AND MUTUAL COMMITMENTS FOR ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SO THAT EACH WOULD KNOW CLEARLY THE OBLIGATIONS THE OTHERS ARE READY TO ASSUME, AND "IN WHAT SEQUENCE." AT THE END OF HIS STATEMENT, LAHODA MADE BRIEF MENTION OF THE WESTERN

NUCLEAR OFFER AS A FIRST, THOUGH "INSUFFICIENT" STEP
IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

4. DURING THE WEEK, THE AD HOC GROUP REQUESTED, AND
RECEIVED, NAC AUTHORIZATION TO DRAW UPON THE
OPTION III PUBLIC PRESENTATION PAPER ON A
BACKGROUND BASIS. RESOR

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